

TIMES OF REFRESHING NEWSLETTER

RESTORATION  MINISTRIES

May/June/July/August 2023

The Resurrection—Apex of Human History!

By

WADE URBAN

Rev. 1:17-18 (Mirror translation) – “Observing all this, I fell at His feet like a dead man. Then, kneeling, He ordained me with His right hand upon me, and said, ‘Do not be afraid! I am the origin and the conclusion of all things. I am also the Living One; I became dead and now, see, I am alive unto the ages of the ages and I have the keys wherewith I have disengaged the gates of Hades and death.’”

The resurrection of Jesus is the most important event in human history, even greater than creation! In creation, God spoke nothingness into existence; in the resurrection, God calls forth life from death. The resurrection completes creation. It's impossible to over-emphasize the importance of the resurrection as the Gospel depends on it! Even the cross loses its significance if no resurrection followed! In the resurrection, the entire human race turned a corner in history never to go back and pretend it didn't happen. Even our calendars were changed. An entirely new age dawned!

Jesus ushered in a new life – New Creation life (2 Cor. 5:17), a new species having never existed! Jesus' resurrection was one of a kind. Yes, many were raised from the dead, but they eventually died or will die. They didn't conquer death. Only Jesus conquered death and all its consequences in His resurrection! The resurrection was the ultimate, absolute, final contradiction to death. Jesus reversed it and all its consequences, even for those held captive (Eph. 4:8). It was as if death never existed. It was rolled back and erased! Can you imagine Jesus going to Adam and Eve and leading them out of death's clutches? Jesus said, “I have the keys of Hades and Death!” Keys represent ownership and occupancy. In effect, death was destroyed, and the liar was given an eviction order. Jesus told him – “This place is Mine!”

What's death? Most define it as the end of earth-life; but it's more. It's separation from God, leading to lost identity from the Garden of Eden with the original lie saying you can be a god within yourself, and you can't trust God to have your best interests at heart. This separation caused a great abyss, a vast emptiness which seems to go on forever, impossible for man to cross. This abyss was filled with fear, terror, darkness, and blindness, so it became impossible for mankind to see beyond their plight. They were blinded from their original identity and origin in God. Blindness takes on an imaginary unreality.

God didn't participate in this fall or separate from man; man separated from Him (Love). In doing so, men invented a god of their own. This turned out to be a god who is repulsed and rejects men because of sin; who judges and punishes for the smallest infraction; who doesn't forgive, only condemns, and disapproves and causes men to try constantly to please him but can't do enough to gain his satisfaction. This taskmaster god keeps men in constant condemnation, guilt, and shame. All this results in thinking of themselves as stupid, unworthy, and sin-conscious, never experiencing rest and peace, only

self-pity and religious misery. They anticipate their next trip to the altar to confess sins for not perfectly keeping rules and hoping this god will give them strength to do better next time! All this is the result of the lie which separated mankind from our original Parent – God Himself! Death has led to human disease and all manner of abuse, hatred, brokenness, fear, and hatred. This was who men were before the cross and resurrection. In Eph.2:4-7, Paul described God's love and mercy shown towards us through Jesus Christ who representing mankind made us alive, raised us up, and seated us in Him in heavenly places!

Jesus, God in flesh, came as Man into this world of the lie and said, “NO!” He came to take sin, fear, abuse, hatred, sickness, disease, and results from the curse to Himself to be swallowed up forever. Jesus came to usher in the Great Exchange – our cursed lives for His eternal life! Consider the woman caught in adultery. Jesus didn't condemn, judge, or make her say a “sinner's prayer.” He asked her where her accusers were, then told her to go and sin no more! The resurrection was the finale of the law and uprooting of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, the DIY tree of works!

Jesus willfully put Himself in evil men's hands for them to do their worst to Him. No one could take His life; He willingly gave it and answered no word or threat. Jesus accepted all they did – He bound Himself to His torturers and became their sin even while they persecuted Him. Isa. 53:3 – “He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief...” Sorrow and grief refer to pain and suffering experienced by man – spirit, soul (emotions), and body, even sexual abuse! In crucifixion, Roman soldiers (trained in torture and sadistic) stripped naked those being crucified. They'd mercilessly ridicule and mock them in one of the highest forms of sexual abuse, yet Jesus didn't answer or threaten them.

Jesus cried out Ps. 22:1 – “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” Every Jew knew that psalm and would know the end of the psalm was a declaration of praise and adoration of Father! Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.” Then, Jn. 19:30 – “So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished!’ And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.” Jesus gave His life; it wasn't taken! Love Himself went inside Death like a great fish swallowing its prey, not knowing it was about to be destroyed from the inside out! Crucified on Friday, leading captivity captive on Saturday, and triumphantly leading out all those caught in Death's clutches on Sunday! The Great Shepherd secured His sheep from the mouth of the lion (which He dispatched with His resurrection). Jesus became one of us so we'd become as He is (see 1 Jn. 4:17)!

An ancient story gives a perfect example of resurrection! A doctor visited a dying patient. In his love for the patient, the doctor entered the man's life, essentially becoming him, taking on his sickness and death, exchanging his life for that of the patient. The doctor then arose from the bed, having swallowed up the patient's sickness and death. The doctor and patient lived, joined together in a shared life as one, the patient knowing he could never again live separately from the doctor. That Doctor is Jesus!

Jesus resurrected our humanity – death has been conquered and its consequences forever reversed. Not even the remembrance of guilt of sin remains. This is New Creation life, the Gospel! Jesus said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much fruit” (Jn. 12:24). When the Seed which is planted mirrors the seed in the fruit, the harvest is ripe! What a picture of resurrection!

This has nothing to do with being like Jesus! This isn't a futuristic, destination gospel of forgiveness of sin and acquiring a future home in heaven. This is the Gospel of intimate relationship here and now! This

is the reality of Gal. 2:20, being co-crucified and co-resurrected with Christ! This isn't trying to do anything, just having your original identity restored in Christ – Love Himself. This isn't your faith that causes this to happen. It's not activated by faith in God, but by God's faith that you live in seamless union in Christ. This truth puts religion out of business! Now you can stop trying to get in – know you're already there!

Jn. 14:20 – “At that day, you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.” That day is the Day of the Lord – the Day of the Resurrection! Because of His resurrection we can participate in His life in His righteousness, peace, and joy! Amen.



PRaise PRaise PRaise REPORTS

- For a few years, my family has met on Sunday afternoons to pray for the needs of our family and friends. Because we're scattered around the country, we have the meeting on Zoom. Ever since our prayer time began, we have seen many miracles as a result. My brother's life was saved after suffering brain bleeds. My sister had cirrhosis of the liver and has now been pronounced disease-free. My nephew had a stomach tumor, which dissipated and was expelled naturally from his body. The Lord even saved my sister's dogs from a rattlesnake! The list goes on and on. I wanted to share this because someone who's reading this has dire needs in your family. I feel the Lord is saying that as a family and with a show of one accord, you should regularly meet to take these needs to God. He responds when we make the effort to devote time consistently to Him. My family has many testimonies, but so can you and yours. An added bonus to our time together is that we're all a lot closer now that we've spent more time with each other. Something simple has become something crucial to the Hunter Family.



SHEPHERD'S STAFF

If you don't think you're good enough to reach the Lord for miracles like I just mentioned, you don't have to be perfect, just available. We've published this online submission before but believe it's amazing to consider. It's from *Katie Holte* from Indiana.

The next time you feel like God can't use you, just remember...

Noah was a drunk
 Abraham was too old
 Isaac was a daydreamer
 Jacob was a liar
 Leah was ugly
 Joseph was abused
 Moses had a stuttering problem
 Gideon was afraid
 Samson had long hair and was a womanizer
 Rahab was a prostitute
 Jeremiah and Timothy were too young
 David had an affair and was a murderer
 Elijah was suicidal
 Jonah ran from God
 Naomi was a widow
 Job went bankrupt
 John the Baptist ate bugs
 Peter denied Christ
 The disciples fell asleep while praying

Martha worried about everything
 The Samaritan woman was divorced more than once
 Zacchaeus was too small
 Paul was too religious
 Timothy had an ulcer
 Lazarus was dead

No more excuses. God can use you to your full potential. Besides, you aren't the message, just the messenger.



The Lighter Side

How many legs does a dog have if you call the leg a tail?
 Four. Calling a tail a leg doesn't make it a leg – Abraham Lincoln

The old lady was being interviewed by the press after she reached the age of 110.

“What do you think is the reason for your long life?” they asked her.

She thought for a while. “Well,” she said with her finger tapping her cheek. “I suppose it's because I was born such a long time ago.”

CHURCH SIGN: “Old Friends are Gold! New Friends are Diamond! If you get a Diamond, don't forget the Gold! Because to hold a Diamond, you always need a Base of Gold!”

THE 2023 SYMPHONY

by

Connie Hunter-Urban

I love Bible stories about overcomers who were faithful to God despite what went on around them. Regardless of the cost or popular viewpoints, they decided to follow God's precepts. I get angry when I hear people blame God for trials instead of trusting and obeying Him, no matter what's transpiring in their lives.

Many biblical examples show how to trust regardless of pervasive evil. The Three Hebrew Children are examples. The Babylonians had already changed their Hebrew names from the ones that exalted God to ones with pagan meanings. That didn't deter them, though, from being faithful to their God. They refused to eat the king's diet. Their lives were threatened because of the king's dream. They experienced jealousy from others who resented their promotions. Then another, greater challenge arose.

King Nebuchadnezzar made a huge, golden image, between 90-100 feet tall. That speaks to me. Sometimes evil becomes so overwhelmingly massive that trusting God may seem impossible. We might feel obligated or be intimidated to comply with others who don't walk in the Lord's way. However, when we know and trust the Lord, we can stand firm despite overwhelming evil. Those Hebrews did.

The king issued an order that everyone was to fall down and bow to that image whenever they heard the sound of instruments that were “in symphony with all kinds of music” (Dan. 3:5). That phrasing speaks to me. In 2023 we're also expected to bow to the symphony that includes all kinds of music. That means we should accept and even revere all kinds of attitudes, opinions, and lifestyles, though many are opposite from God's laws.

God loves and created diversity, but that word has become synonymous with differences and beliefs that others want us to acknowledge and follow. Society expects tolerance for everyone's opinions and differences, except for Christians. Our beliefs are not only

not accepted, but they're the object of ridicule and jokes in these times that cherish "all kinds of [other] music." Instead of being tolerant and respecting our commitments to live according to our ultimate guideline, the Bible, they call it an outdated book. One celebrity even said religion was important in older times; but now, technology has made it so we don't need to believe in God. That sounds like a huge idol to bow to. How sad, but those attitudes are part of the diverse symphony that's sounding in our times.

Even the king told the Hebrew Children that their faithfulness to believe in God's ability was foolish because no god could deliver them from their punishment. However, his and others' words and the potential punishment for their retaining their principles didn't deter those believers from their beliefs. No matter what happened, they would be faithful. They said, "God... [was] able to deliver [them] from the burning fiery furnace.... But if not... [they wouldn't] worship the gold image" (Dan. 3:17-18). They decided in advance that the consequences for following their God were worth it.

Like these men, we also need to decide if we will choose the symphony that follows the Lord's guidelines or that of those who preach their own particular affinities. No matter the consequences or outcomes, we should still determine to be like the Hebrew boys and follow Him, even if everyone else chooses pervasive evil.

The Hebrews were led to the furnace. Though the men who had thrown them into the fire were killed by the intense heat, those faithful three survived being thrust into the furnace because the Lord was right there with them. Sometimes God doesn't deliver us FROM the fire; He delivers us IN the fire. Though bad things happen to everyone—Christians and Non-Christians—Jesus is in that fire with those of us who belong to Him.

Many call our convictions out-of-touch with today's norms. That's a good thing for us. However, they also say our beliefs demonstrate our hatred of certain groups of people. That's because unbelievers don't understand us Christians. We hate no one but rather love them all. However, we hate the immorality that will determine eternal destinies. We're a separated people and have our own music we live by. Anything else is sin. Just like the Hebrews' standing up for God changed the hearts of unbelievers, so should we let our choices testify to others about God. They're all important to Him, and He doesn't want any to perish.

I've seen news stories about people who were sued because of standing firm for biblical principles. Of young people whose rights were violated because they spoke up about gender. Of businesses that experienced much backlash because they stood up for godly principles. Though there may be consequences, whose music do you want to follow?

Sometimes even listening to the symphony of those diverse, sinful voices who call wrong, right and right, wrong can ensnare us. What will you choose? "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Josh. 24:15).

PRAY FOR:

PHYSICAL: **ACCIDENTS:** **Diana** (to walk again after breaking leg, not progressing as she should.), **Mary** (broken ribs after fall), **ADDICTIONS:** **Wayne** (deliverance, healing, taken too many drugs, was in meth-induced coma); **CANCER:** **Angie** (4th stage breast, spine, skull, falls a lot), **Anne** (2nd round of chemo), **Arlene** (both lungs), **Becky** (breast), **Beni, Bill** (returned), **Bobbie** (Stage 4 breast, lung & bones, spread to brain), **Brigitte** (thyroid), **Calvin** (80's, cancer removed from ear, bled so much needed transfusion, couldn't use legs), **Carson** (leukemia), **Cathleen** (ovarian),

Christopher (return of cancer), **Connie** (breast), **David** (pastor, prostate), **Denny** (skin, leukemia, lymphoma, clarity of mind, surgery to have ear removed & replaced), **Diane** (eye), **Donna** (abdomen, also heart issues), **Fonda** (non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, strength, health obstacles hindering treatments, life & health over entire body), **Fran** (skin), **Grandmother** (had surgery to remove colon, lymph glands), **Jayna** (lumpectomy), **Jimmy, John** (prostate), **Julie** (4th stage lung, 3rd stage kidney disease), **Kernie** (multiple), **Kevin, Kim** (ovarian, spread to kidney & liver), **Kimmy** (cervical, Stage 2, excessive pain, meds don't help), **Larry, Les** (brain, facing surgery), **Linda, Lynn, Marie** (ovarian), **Martha** (bad reaction to chemo, seizures, confusion, fatigue), **Mary, Megan** (breast, aggressive), **Meghan** (breasts removed, also in cervix), **Mike, Nora** (double mastectomy), **Norm, Pam, Racheal, Raquel** (breast), **Richard** (cancerous tumors throughout body, blood clots), **Ronnie, Sofia** (11, leukemia), **Sue** (bone marrow transplant), **Susan** (uterine), **Todd** (kidneys, bones, lungs, maybe brain), **Pastor Tom** (leukemia, having treatments, had surgery); **AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES:** **Alzheimer's** (Loretta, Ruth), **Crohn's** (Noah-12, Abby-10), **Lupus** (Tom), **RA, Grave's** (Rhonda), **Hodgkin's, Parkinson's** (Linde, Brenda, Cheryl, Members of a Family, **David**), **Hashimoto** (Melana), **Primary Biliary Cirrhosis** (Tina), **Barrett's Esophagus** (Rena), **MS** (Jackie), **Mitochondrial Disease** (Jessica); **DIABETES:** **Brice, Chad, Charles, Colby** (child), **Derek, Jamie, Jeff, Jo, Larry, Mark, Mary, Norm, Randy, Virgie, Xandra**; **HEALING** **Elizabeth** (pre-cancerous cells), **Denny** (seeing ENT surgeon), **Janice, Dave** (crook in back), **Jeanette** (needs everything), **John** (stroke), **Lettie** (strength, faith, issues w/ thyroid after many years of healing), **John** (stroke), **Judy** (high BP) **Tina** (reversal for damage to liver, colon, & bladder), **Wendi, Weston** (premature infant), **Ranona** (eye problems after stroke, issues w/ husband & granddaughter), **Jeff** (congenital defect in spine, may need surgery), **Lea** (back & abdominal pain), **Dan** (fever, flu, cough), **Jason** (headaches), **Liz** (cholesterol, glucose), **Kate** (child, bump on leg), **Anita** (pain in breast), **Don** (loss of circulation in feet & lower legs, fever, delirium, rapid heartbeat), **Tinna** (healing of leg), **Wilda** (suffering w/ leg for over a year), **Man** (84, not recovering well from surgery), **Sharon** (ulnar nerve pain); **HEART:** **Kim** (3 blockages, needs surgery but not strong enough, high fever, inflamed transplanted kidney, trusting God), **Judy** (was hospitalized for fluid in heart & pneumonia, scar tissue on heart that has no medical solution, GI bleeding), **Lou** (heart racing from stress), **Unborn Child** (not developing properly, one side of heart not developing right); **KIDNEYS:** **Xandra** (to go on transplant list, stage 5 kidney failure, starting dialysis); **PREGNANCIES:** **CONCEIVE:** **Tiffany, Kaylee, Rachel, Michelle, Jen, Tiffany, Mercedes**; **SURGERY:** **Claire** (having procedure), **Kathy** (had surgery), **Marci** (knee), **Connie** (knee replacement), **Judy** (scheduled for heart cath, blocked arteries, impending kidney surgery), **Melissa** (botched surgery to expand rib cage. Organs nicked in follow-up surgery, unexpectedly pregnant), **Matt** (awaiting foot surgery), **A Man** (had part of leg removed, believing for new leg), **Pam** (swelling in both legs since Covid)

SPIRITUAL:

WORLD-WIDE & NATIONAL AWAKENINGS – OUTPOURING – REFORMATION (Renewal, Rival, Reformation); **BAPTISMS IN HOLY SPIRIT; MINISTRIES:** **Breakthrough! Von Raeders** (missionaries in Nepal), **Restoration Ministries** (direction), **Crossroads Recovery** (breakthrough), **Kenya Ministry for**

Orphans, For workers to go forth for the Kingdom;
SALVATION (or turn back to God): FAMILIES & EXTENDED FAMILIES, Alyce, Anne, Beth's Family, Brice, Brittney, Cassandra, Ernest, Greg, Gretchen, Hannah, Hunter, Jonathan, Joshua, Lance, Marilyn's sons, Mark (2), Naomi, Paul, Quentin, Randy, Steven, Todd, Verne, Vincent

MENTAL/EMOTIONAL:

GRIEF: Redd Family (death of son), Parents (lost 10-month-old), Alana (lost boyfriend to suicide), Families (helicopter pilots in KY), Russell Family (2 deaths in week), Allen Family (3 deaths in year), Doolin Family, Slagle Family, Dunaway Family;
SUICIDAL THOUGHTS: Kris

LIFE:

HOMES: Hartman Family (lost everything in house fire), Pegi (wisdom about selling home & moving closer to relatives); **JOB:** Mark (1-2 loads per week canceled), Jason (needs good job), Zack (department is closing), Annie (deals to go through), Clinton (lost job due to politics), Rebekah (job unsure after business sold), Shell (important decision about job), **RELATIONSHIPS: A Mother whose daughter is separating, PRAYERS FOR OUR NATION**

Announcements

RESTORATION  MINISTRIES

OUR UPDATED CALENDAR IS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE.

Our books—*God's Plan for Our Success*, *Nehemiah's Way*; *The Elijah Anointing*; *Your Holy Spirit Arsenal*; *Be Healed!*; & *Enemies of Destiny*—are available on book sites, our website, or by sending \$15. (includes shipping in U.S.) to our PO Box. Study guides are also available. Connie's children's books: *Butchie's New Home*, *Butchie Comes Home*; *Izzy: Outside Our Reach*; & *Bingo* are also for sale.

~~SPEAKINGS/BOOK SIGNINGS~~

- If you want us to speak/minister to your group, contact us. Besides preaching in churches & conferences, we do one-day workshops. *We'd love to be with you!*

~~~RESTORATION MINISTRIES' UPCOMING EVENTS~~~

- STREAMING – We have taken the summer off for family obligations, rest, travel, and to seek the Lord's will for our ministry. During this time, our class has still been taught by Richard and Amanda Sleet. It meets each Monday @ 6 p.m. (EST) at the HPWC Resource Center or on FB Live. We will return on September 11 when Wade will begin teaching about "Spiritual Warfare."
- In September, we will be teaching a Holy Spirit workshop at the New Norm in Muncie. The pastor is Ken Fuller, who is very welcoming of all. The date is yet to be determined, but we will also update you on that when we have details.

F.Y.I.

WE'RE HOPING TO SEND MORE NEWSLETTERS VIA EMAIL. IF WE MAY CHANGE YOURS, PLEASE LET US KNOW. THANKS!

If you need prayer or know anyone to add to or delete from our mailing list, send names & addresses to:

Restoration Ministries  
P. O. Box # 634, Connersville, IN 47331  
EMAIL: [conniehunterurban@gmail.com](mailto:conniehunterurban@gmail.com)  
WEBSITE: [restormin.org](http://restormin.org)  
TEXT TO GIVE – 833-758-0290

***We are touched & greatly appreciate your support of our ministry.***  
GOD BLESS YOU!